

## **Child-Specific Exposure Factors Handbook (Interim Final Report)**

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Children are often more heavily exposed to environmental toxicants than adults. They consume more food and water and have higher inhalation rates per pound of body weight than adults. Young children play close to the ground and may come into contact with contaminated soil outdoors and with contaminated dust on surfaces and carpets indoors. As another example, exposure to chemicals in breast milk affects infants and young children. Protecting children from environmental threats has been a major concern to EPA. EPA is committed to improving risk assessment methodologies to ensure that risks to children are fully evaluated and addressed. Assessing environmental exposures to children requires physiological and behavioral data specific to children.

The National Center for Environmental Assessment of the Office of Research and Development collected, reviewed, evaluated, analyzed, and summarized exposure factors data for children. These data are presented in the Child-Specific Exposure Factors Handbook published in interim final form in September 2002. The document provides a summary of the available and up-to-date statistical data on various factors assessing children exposures. These factors include drinking water consumption, soil ingestion, inhalation rates, dermal factors including skin area and soil adherence factors, consumption of fruits and vegetables, fish, meats, dairy products, homegrown foods, breast milk, activity patterns, body weight, consumer products and life expectancy. This document is being used by exposure assessors in the EPA Program Offices and Regions as well as exposure assessors outside the Agency, nationally and internationally, to assess exposures to children.

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